

\$518-Million Headed for Oklahoma

Donor State No Longer!

Washington, DC -- Oklahoma will soon receive more federal highway dollars this year than it contributed in gas taxes, Congressman Ernest Istook (R-OK) announced today. Istook chairs the House Transportation and Treasury Appropriations Subcommittee which passed its spending bill out of subcommittee today.

“This is one year we won’t be a donor state, for sure!” said Istook. **“For years, Oklahomans have paid more in federal gas taxes than we have received back in federal highway dollars. This year, the opposite will be true.”**

Over the past five years (1998-2002), Oklahoma has contributed an average of \$473,432,000 in federal gas taxes to the highway fund and has received back an average of 93 cents on the dollar. Istook’s bill contains currently almost \$518 million for transportation projects across the state. The funds include a 17% increase in formula funding (\$458,469,000, which is \$50-million more than Oklahoma received through the formula last year) plus \$57,378,000 in designated projects.

As an appropriations measure, the bill provides funding only for one year at a time.

For Oklahoma’s largest project—the I-40 Crosstown Expressway—the bill contains \$13,266,000. Istook said additional funds can come from the extra undesignated \$50-million the state will get. Plus, Istook said, there is a very good possibility that additional funds for I-40 will be allotted in the final House-Senate conference version of the bill.

\$13,266,000 for the I-40 Crosstown Expressway replacement
\$2,000,000 for I-44 exit ramp in Luther
\$5,000,000 for widening I-44 between Yale Ave. and the Arkansas River in Tulsa
\$250,000 for N.E. 23rd Street between Lincoln & I-35 in Oklahoma City
\$100,000 for road construction for an industrial park in Vinita, OK
\$642,000 for a maintenance facility and vehicles for the Kibios Area Transit System
\$2,000,000 for US Highway 99 from Seminole to Ada
\$800,000 for the Max Westheimer Airport in Norman
\$250,000 for repairs U.S. Highway 270 and adjoining streets in Wewoka
\$750,000 for MacArthur and Airport Drive intersection improvements
\$1,000,000 for reconstruction of Rogers Lane and I-44 interchange in Lawton
\$1,000,000 for Rockford Road in Ardmore
\$1,750,000 for buses and bus facilities in Norman
\$1,820,000 for the Central Oklahoma Transportation and Parking Authority (COPTA)
\$2,000,000 for U.S. 60 in Osage County
\$2,000,000 for a U.S. Department of Transportation Research Office in Oklahoma
(a collaborative effort by OU, OSU, and Langston University)
\$2,500,000 for the replacement of the Tulsa Air Traffic Control Tower
\$4,500,000 for Tulsa Transit Bus Replacement Program
\$5,500,000 for the Northern Oklahoma Regional Multimodal Transportation System
\$6,000,000 for the Oklahoma Jobs Access and Reverse Commute Program
\$6,250,000 for Oklahoma Department of Transportation Transit Programs